

used to purchase something new and to get it repaired and that money that normally was paying a tax is now free of paying a tax. So I would say we also have to recognize the era of the 1980s which is different. It is a service era. The bill has two other things in it. It eliminates or repeals the sales tax on food, something the Legislature has fought over at least twelve years and it repeals and eliminates the sales tax on private utilities, the gas and electricity used to heat the home. Now is this proper, is this reasonable? Well we already eliminated the sales tax on utilities for business and agriculture. We've only maintained it on the individual homeowner. The necessities of life, food and energy to keep warm in the winter, those are things we're taxing heavily at the same time that the prices of them are going up astronomically otherwise. History has shown that anytime a nation or a state, a country taxes too heavily and abusively the absolute necessities of life, you injure your citizens, you destroy your state. History is full of cases of kings, emperors who used taxes on salt which was a necessity of life as a way to control the citizenry and it did topple the kings. I know this sounds a little bit nonsensical talking about kings and so on and so forth but it is a fact that when you abuse your populous by taxing the absolute necessities for their survival, you injure that state. Now, yes, when somebody does go and get their car repaired, they do have some flexibility. It is an optional thing. They do have some control over what the costs are going to be, but when you get your utilities and your food, you do not have that. This would eliminate the sales tax on food. It would eliminate the sales tax on utilities, thereby living up to a few promises all of us have made to our senior citizens, particularly, and it would accomplish broadening of the tax base so that we would not have to make the massive cuts and so that we could, in fact, have the most important thing that I would like to walk away from here with, an actual tax rate cut. You could walk away with a tax rate cut. And I think that is what the Governor called us here for, to address the fiscal crisis by dealing with the sales tax and I believe this is a proper mode of dealing with the sales tax, dealing with the whole system, and I believe it certainly should be within the call and is within the call. Let me simply close by suggesting one thing. If we miss this dangerous opportunity to solve this crisis, the crisis you will reap in January and March will be two or three times as severe. It will hurt more. It will cause more damage and disrupt this state more and take away our ability to address the other problems. Now I hope that you would at least give the benefit of the doubt and try this idea, try it now. Why do I say now rather than January? Because many of you have come to me and said, if you would do this in January, we would support it. I pretend and like to believe that I know a little bit about political reality, and political reality is this is the kind of proposal come January can't make it around the track. It can't make it around the track because there will be too many special interests, too many individuals, groups, mobilizing to oppose it. They will stall it off for the first three, four months with one study or another. They will then make it carry over until the 1984 session. In 1984 we will be in election year and they will have enough to kill it then one way or another. I just don't believe it is one of the proposals that can be passed